THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has closed these centres after ensuring that these are not required in the concerned areas and the children from these centres have been mainstreamed in regular schools.

Inspection of universities

379. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission(UGC) cannot conduct surprise inspection of the universities;

(b) if so, whether such a limitation doesn't hamper the UGC's mandate to maintain and monitor the academic standards of the institutions of higher education;

(c) whether such a limitation is applicable for both Central as well as State Universities; and

(d) whether Government is considering any step to make universities more accountable to the regulator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission is bound to communicate to any University whether Central or State, the date on which an inspection is to be made under section 13(2) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, and the University is entitled to be associated with the inspection in the manner prescribed in the Rules. Consistent with the autonomy of universities, need for an effective and overarching mechanism is one of the priorities of the Government.

Regulation for checking ragging

380. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to check ragging menace, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has broadened the definition of ragging apart from bringing several other new regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the heads of various Central Universities have been directed to handle the menace of ragging effectively;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and